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SENATORS VIEWING SOVIET SPY EFFORTS

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WASHINGTON, June 11 —
Prompted by the widening Navy spy
case, the Senate Select Committee on
Intelligence announced today that it
had begun a comprehensive investigation
of Soviet espionage efforts against
the United States.

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The investigation will examine
American counterintelligence efforts
and "the implications for national security
growing out of the Walker case,"
according to the committee's chairman,
Senator Dave Durenberger, Republican
of Minnesota.

The Government alleges that a retired
naval communications specialist, John A. Walker Jr., ran the largest
espionage network uncovered in the
United States in 30 years.

As part of a similar inquiry, the
House Government Operations Subcommittee
on Information, Justice and Agriculture
said it would hold hearings beginning
next week on United States counterintelligence.

New Concerns Raised

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The ranking Democrat on the Senate
panel, Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont,
said in an interview that the arrest of
Mr. Walker and three other men had
raised new concern in Congress.

"How many other cases like this are
there sitting out there?" he asked.
"There are about 1,000 Soviet intelligence
officers in this country, and we
have to assume the rest of them are out
there doing something."

According to a written statement, the
committee wants to know why a growing
number of Americans have been arrested
on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

The statement said the committee
would try to determine the "changes in
the extent of Soviet espionage operations
both within the United States and
against U.S. installations and interests
overseas."

The chairman of the House panel,
Representative Glenn English, Democrat
of Oklahoma, has scheduled a
hearing for Monday on "the whole area
of counterintelligence." Officials from
the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
the Defense Department and the General
Accounting are to testify.

Mr. English said that while the
Walker case would not be the focus of
the hearings, "obviously it will be discussed."

'Growing Threat' Seen

"There is reason to believe that espionage
is a growing threat," he said.
"We also want to try to determine if too
much information is being classified,
and whether this, in turn, has led to too
many people receiving security clearance."

Senator Leahy said the Senate investigation
was a bipartisan effort. "Both sides
are concerned," he said. "What we
are going to do is take a very close

look at an extraordinarily important
issue."

He said the Navy would come in for
close scrutiny. The four men arrested
in the Walker case are all current or
former Navy employees.

"In my estimation, there seems to be
a real effort being made now by some
in the Navy to downplay this case," the
Senator said. "That strikes me as very
much a cover-your-backside situation.
They know they were extremely negligent
in the case, and I don't want a
cover-up of anyone's negligence."

Meanwhile, Mr. Walker's former
wife, Barbara Joy Crowley Walker,
said in an interview published today
that she had begun a nightly prayer
vigil for her 22-year-old son, Michael,
who has also been charged with espionage
in the case.

She said she she could understand
why Michael, a yeoman aboard the aircraft
carrier Nimitz, might have
turned to espionage. "When you have
Johnny Walker badgering you all the
time, I can understand why he did it, if
he did it," she said.

Mrs. Walker, who has acknowledged
that she provided the tip that led to the
arrest of her son and former husband,
said in the interview with The Cape Cod
Times that the case had taken its toll on
her family.

Her daughter Margaret, 27, an artist
living in Norfolk, Va., is "emotionally
hurting," Mrs. Walker said.

Of Rachel Walker, Michael's wife,
Mrs. Walker said, "She seems to be
doing very well." But she added, "Of
course we all break down."

She said that she had become angry
with the heavy coverage of the case by
reporters, who converged daily on her
home in West Dennis, Mass. "All I
want from these people," she said,
referring to reporters, "is for them to
pray for my son."